

**Central Falls School District
Board of Trustees
Minutes**

January 18, 2005

Call to Order

Chairperson, Mr. Canavan called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

Present were: Robert Canavan, Chairperson,

Joel Roseman,

Mary Lou Perez,

Gus Silva

Ana Cecilia Rosado

Ana Cano-Morales

Excused: Joseph Faria

Public Comments

Carolyn Roseman, High School Principal, introduced Dr. Ken Grew and Mr. Steven Iannotti to the Board of Trustees, both gentlemen are currently serving as per diem assistant principals at the high school

Current Business

Minutes – Gus Silva motioned to accept the minutes of the December 14, 2004 Board of Trustees meeting, Ana Cano-Morales seconded the motion and so it was voted 6-0. Discussion, Ana-Cecelia Rosado

asked that members who are not present, but have explained their absence be reported as excused instead of absent.

Schedule of Bills – Joel Roseman stated that he had reviewed the schedule of bills and motioned to accept, Gus Silva seconded the motion and so it was voted 6-0.

Communications

Retirement letters were received from Bertrand Brousseau stating that his last day of service to the school district was December 29, 2004. Paulette Gazaille submitted her resignation from the position of secretary at Calcutt Middle School effective December 23, 2004, and Diana Waters resigning from ESL Math teacher at Calcutt Middle School effective January 3, 2005.

A request for a leave of absence for the remainder of the academic year was received from Amy O'Brien-Milohua, Kindergarten teacher at Cowden Street School.

Mary Lou Perez requested to place these letters on file, Gus Silva seconded the motion and so it was voted 6-0.

Sub-committee Reports

Joel Roseman mentioned that members of the Board of Trustees and the Superintendent met with the city council and Mayor Moreau regarding the budget issues. He felt that the meeting went well and

that a good communication line has been set.

Administrative Report - Dr. Watkins thanked the middle school English Language Arts and Math teachers for their work with Becky Burns, which puts curriculum mapping underway in the district.

Brown Alliance was in district on January 18, to meet with the principals, it went well and they will return to shadow the principals soon.

Attendance meeting for high school students was held. Student attendance has been an issue, the first meeting was very productive with a good turnout of parents.

Mr. Canavan had asked for data on the high school's attendance for the next board meeting. Dr. Watkins explained that a reward incentive would be proposed to get students back into schools, hoping to increase attendance.

Joel Roseman stated that he attended the Dr. Martin Luther King performance that was held in honor of Black History Month. Deanna Camputaro and students from the high school did a fantastic job. Great performance!

Personnel Issues

The following appointments be made: Sydney Baram – temporary Diagnostic Prescriptive Teacher for the district effective January 3, 2005. Arelys Figuereo – Even Start Program Early Childhood Para

professional effective January 3, 2005. Michael Pasela – crossing guard Veterans Memorial January 3, 2005. Diane Pina – Bilingual speech and language pathologist – district wide, effective January 18, 2005. Jose Dajer Temporary Middle School ESL Math teacher at Calcutt Middle School effective January 18, 2005. Tracy Farricker-Kropp – Temporary Middle School ESL English at Calcutt Middle School effective January 18, 2005. Mr. Stephen Iannotti – per diem assistant principal – high school. Dr. Kenneth Grew – per diem assistant principal – high school

Joel Roseman motioned to accept the appointments, Ana-Cecelia Rosado seconded the motion and so it was voted 6-0.

Dr. Watkins made the recommendation that Bertrand Brousseau's retirement be accepted effective December 29, 2004, Joel Roseman motioned to accept, and Gus Silva seconded the motion and so it was voted 6-0.

Dr. Watkins made the recommendation that the following resignations be accepted:

Paulette Gazaille resigning from her position as school secretary effective December 23, 2004. Diana Waters resigning from her position as ESL Math teacher at Calcutt Middle School effective January 3, 2005. Joel Roseman motioned to accept the resignations and Ana Cecelia Rosa do seconded the motion and so it was voted 6-0.

Dr. Watkins asked the Board of Trustees to approve an extension on a personal leave of absence for the remained of the academic year for Any O'Brien-Milohua. Ana-Cecelia Rosado motioned to accept and Gus Silva seconded the motion and so it was voted 6-0.

Chairperson's Report - Mr. Canavan thanked the Board members for the excellent job they did with meeting with the city council. He stated that the budget and deficit was self-explanatory. Ana-Cecelia Rosado said that there was openness between board members and the city council, but that the concerns are the children

Old Business

Budget – This issue was addressed under Mr. Canavan's report.

Union Negotiations – Dr. Watkins asked for a list of Board Members that will be sitting in on negotiations with the union. She did state that a meeting was set up for January 25 with the certified union and February 3 was set aside to discuss ground rules.

New Business

School Expectations: In attendance were the principals of each school. Each principal spoke of the current expectations of students in their schools and what is currently taking place during the day. Each principal briefly explained the demographics of the school and what the children are expected to achieve by the end of the year.

Attorney Services – Joel Roseman expressed concern for recent newspaper article and said that it was not a way to communicate issues. He went on to say that the headlines of the recent article were of concern. It was mentioned that the current school district's firm of Sciacca & Piccirilli is currently working with other school districts in the state. Gus Silva stated that when the firm was hired all information should have been shared. Ana-Cano Morales stated that she felt the process was not equitable at the time. Mr. Canavan stated the reasons for the current attorneys past, stating that it has nothing to do with children. Gus Silva asked for a revote and Mr. Canavan stated that Roberts Rules do not allow a revote at this time and overruled Gus Silva's recommendation. Mr. Silva voiced his concern about being overruled. A recommendation was made by Joel Roseman to have the law firm of Scicca & Piccirilli submit in writing their opinion regarding the ability to revote and/or rescind under Roberts Rules. It was also agreed that the Board of Trustees would also seek the legal advise from the Rhode Island Department of Education.

Personnel Policy: Dr. Watkins introduced a policy that would implement steps to clarify the hiring process within the district. Joel Roseman motioned to accept the policy and Ana Cano-Morales seconded the motion and so it was voted 6-0.

Meeting Date: Dr. Watkins asked if the meeting date in February

could be postponed one week due to the need to issue lay-off notices to staff members. Gus Silva motioned to accept the date change, Joel Roseman seconded the motion and so it was voted 6-0.

Regulations for School Health and Education for Homeless Children: Dr. Watkins passed out the current regulations, Gus Silva motioned to accept the regulations, Ana Cecelia seconded the motion and so it was voted 6-0

Regulations for High School Reform: Dr. Watkins issued the guidelines for High School Reform stating that it contains academic decathlons she also told board members that the high school is interested in the reform. Gus Silva motioned to accept the guidelines, Joel Roseman seconded the motion and so it was voted 6-0.

Call for Executive Session

Motion by Gus Silva, seconded by Ana Cano-Morales to move to an executive session pursuant to chapter 42-46-5 (a) 1&2 of the General Law of the State of Rhode Island, and so it was voted 6-0.

Public Meeting Reconvened

A motion was made to return to open meeting by Joel Roseman, seconded by Mary Lou Peres and so it was voted 6-0.

Adjourn

Mr. Canavan at 8:53 asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting, Joel

Roseman motioned to accept, Gus Silva seconded the motion and so it was voted 6-0.